

Expanded Curbside Recycling in Takoma Park

In addition to glass bottles and metal cans, the expanded program will accept any of plastic beverage or container. Accepted plastics includes all container #1 through #7, regardless of whether they are wide mouthed or narrow necked containers. In addition to the paper items currently accepted (newspaper, mixed paper, paperboard boxes and corrugated cardboard) gable top containers, like paper milk cartons and aseptic packaging, like juice boxes can be accepted. Also accepted are plastic film, however it can not be loose and must be placed together inside a plastic bag which is tied closed. This keeps the plastic film from getting tangled in equipment and will improve the recovery rate.

The City has a contract with Recycle America, a recycling facility located in Prince George's County, for the processing of the City's curbside collected recycling. The company currently processes recycling for Prince George's County and many Southern Maryland Counties at their Capitol Heights facility.

The recycling facility runs a "single stream" processing operation. The City will now use one truck for the collection of all recycling. Previously the City used Montgomery County's "dual stream" processing facility which required paper and commingled items to be delivered separately. The City recently put in service a new larger recycling truck that will be able to hold the quantity of recycled materials set out daily by City residents. The use of a single truck, rather than two trucks, will reduce the fuel use and carbon emissions that are generated by the collection process.

Residents are asked to prepare the recycled materials in the same way that they currently do. All newspaper and mixed paper should be placed in paper bags or tied into bundles. This reduces the likelihood of litter from loose paper and increases the rate of recovery for the paper. All bottles, cans and containers should be rinsed free of food particles and placed in the recycling bin provided by the City.

Listed below are the details of Acceptable materials for the expanded recycling program:

PAPER

- newspaper (with inserts)
- magazines, catalogs and phone books
- junk mail and office paper
- paperboard boxes (cereal boxes, etc – remove liners)
- frozen food packaging

- corrugated cardboard boxes (please break down and fold up)
- computer print outs
- books (paperbacks, textbooks and hardback – though best to offer them for reuse to the Library or organizations that can reuse them)
- non metallic wrapping paper
- aseptic/gable top milk and juice cartons

CONTAINERS AND OTHER

- Glass beverage containers and jars
- Ferrous and bi metal food and beverage containers
- All narrow necked plastic bottles – Code 1 – 7 – (no motor oil or containers used for hazardous chemicals)
- Wide mouth plastic containers (examples peanut butter, yogurt, margarine, whipped topping, etc)
- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil and pie pans (clean)
- Rigid plastic containers including milk and soda bottles, plastic buckets, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, flower pots, drinking cups, 5 gallon bottles, plastic toys and broken plastic garbage and recycling bins
- Plastic film – must be in placed in a bag to keep it contained, includes grocery bags, stretch film or shrink wrap

All paper items should be placed in paper bags or tied into secure bundles to avoid becoming litter, and make collection and processing easier. All containers should be rinsed and placed in the recycling container. For items too large to fit into the recycling container – just place beside container at the curb on your recycling day.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at 31 Oswego Avenue or review the information on the City's website www.takomaparkmd.gov.